


Duke, Daphne

From: PSCSC Communications
Sent: Wednesday, March 24, 2021 7:29 AM
To: Duke, Daphne; Latimer, Becky
Subject: FW: [External] Dominion Energy Public Hearing



Please add Mr. Lemasters comments to the Docket.

From: Lemasters, John J. 
Sent: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 10:47 PM
To: PSCSC Communications <communications@psc.sc.gov>
Subject: RE: [External] Dominion Energy Public Hearing

Dear Commissioners,

My name is John J. Lemasters. I live on Chardon Comm Johns Island. I am a Dominion customer with 15 rooftop solar panels installed last year. I am scheduled to speak at 11:52 pm, but you are running more than an hour late. I simply cannot stay up to testify, since I have to go to work tomorrow. Accordingly, here are my comments:

1. The proposed monopolistic tariff by Dominion Energy on all solar customers is anti-competitive, anti-Green, and a rip-off to the State of South Carolina.
2. Existing solar customers have each made a substantial investment, and they expect a small but reasonable return on these investments. Dominion's proposed tariff will create a loss instead. The Public Service Commission should require Dominion to honor current rules for existing solar customers for at least 10 years, preferably 15 years, the typical time frame for these investments. Dominion expects a reasonable return on its investment. Why should Dominion's existing solar customers have anything less? I mean, how is that fair at all?
3. Dominion professes to be going "Green" by retiring coal plants and replacing them with gas-powered plants. Solar energy is the true Green alternative. By increasing the base of solar customers, Dominion will be able to retire its coal plants at a faster pace, especially since solar and associated battery backup systems provide power at peaks hours, even on cloudy days. Dominion's proposed tariff will strongly discourage new solar systems at the detriment of Dominion's own goal of retiring coal plants for less costly gas plants. Indeed, Dominion is failing to take into account this benefit of solar energy to both Dominion itself and to all its non-solar customers, since costs for building new plants will be delayed and possibly avoided altogether. Thus, Dominion's estimates of the cost of solar to non-solar customers are highly suspect.
4. Dominion greatly exaggerates the costs of having solar customers. Indeed as stated at the hearing today and not disputed, recent testimony by a Dominion representative states that the average cost to Dominion for solar customers is less than \$1.40 per month per customer. I think that even this cost is inflated by Dominion, since it does not take not account savings from not having to build new power generators.
5. Dominion's proposal flouts the intent of the South Carolina's Energy Freedom Act, which requires decisions by the Public Service Commission to be just and reasonable to electric utility ratepayers, in the public interest, and nondiscriminatory to small power producers, namely the residential solar customers. Dominion's proposed tariff is neither fair nor balanced and will impose fees that will make it more expensive to be a solar producer than not to be one.
6. The Commission should not only deny this tariff, but they should admonish Dominion for their monopolist proposal that flouts the letter and intent of our law. South Carolina has already been victimized by an electrical utility professing to be acting in our best interests when in fact the opposite was true. This is just another attempt. Let us not fall victim again.

Thank you.